# Help to CREATE SINGLETON 2035

# ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

## Engagement Report

The Create Singleton 2035 Community Strategic Plan is the blueprint for the future of Singleton for the next 10 years, setting the course for a **vibrant, progressive, sustainable, connected** and **resilient** community.

**We launched the CSP engagement program on 7 March 2024 and finished the engagement on the 16 August 2024.**

**We received over 3500 interactions with our community, including:**

- Survey responses: **725** (20 questions)
- Dotmocracy responses: **1065**
- Vision board interactions: **1024**
- **50** Event Budget exercise entries
- Facebook + Instagram story interactions: **525**
- **40** interactions through the Youth Centre blackboard
- **124** 'LOVE' Postcard entries
- **70** comments from Facebook

**The Engagement we undertook included:**

- **19** pop ups across the LGA,
- **Attended 8** Advisory Panel committees
- Had some **static stands** in the Library and Arts + Cultural Centre
- **20 question survey online** for the full 6 months
- **Weekly** Facebook/Instragram polls and stories

**Top 10 Themes identfied from comments submitted** (in order from 1-10):

1. Entertainment/ activities
2. Retail
3. Youth
4. Hospitality
5. Walking, cycling + pathways
6. Sporting facilities
7. Maintaining our facilities
8. Roads/parking
9. Water parks/sports/activities
10. Parks + Playgrounds

**W singleton.nsw.gov.au/createsingleton2035**
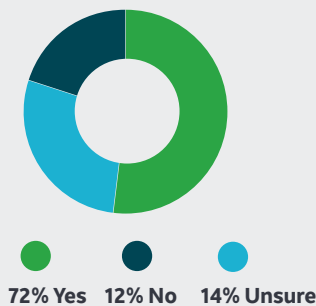
SINGLETON COUNCIL

# What is our data telling us:

Overall **60% of our community** think we have made improvements towards achieving our vision to be **vibrant, progressive, sustainable, connected** and **resilient**.
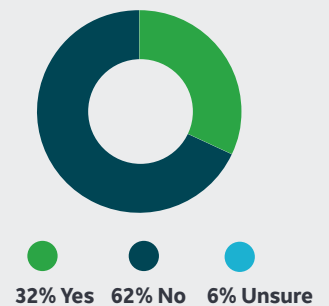
- 60% Yes
- 30% No
- 10% Unsure
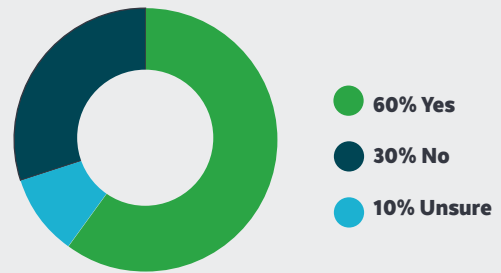
**72% of the survey respondents** think we have made improvements

72% Yes  12% No  14% Unsure

**76% of our Community Committee** members think we have made improvements

76% Yes  5% No  19% Unsure
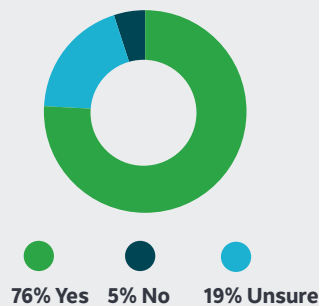
**32% of our Social Media (Facebook/Instagram)** engagers think we are achieving our vision

32% Yes  62% No  6% Unsure

# What the Community thinks we should be focusing on to achieve our vision

- Community and social connection
- Community health and wellbeing
- Public transport, cycleways and walking connections
- Enhancement of public spaces
- Local employment opportunities
- Arts and other creative pursuits
- Climate resilience and sustainability
- Diversity in the local economy
- Youth and recreational facilities
- Housing affordability

## Top ranked facilities:

- Cycleways, footpaths + shared pathways
- ↑ Gym + Swim
- ↑ Parks + Open spaces
- ↓ Arts + Cultural Centre

## What do you think are the main challenges facing our community?

- Access to health services + Support
- Aging Population
- Housing affordability
- Access to further education and training
- Jobs and employment

## Industries our community thinks are a good fit for Singleton:

- Leisure/ntertainment/Recreation/
- Hospitality
- Health/Medical/Life Services
- ↑ Educational
- ↑ Art + Culture





## Who is best placed to respond to environmental challenges:

Categories (x-axis):
- Awareness and education
- Enhancing and protecting our biodiversity
- Keeping our environment clean
- Resourcing recovery and waste management
- Responding to climate change
- Supporting alternative energy sources

Legend:
- ● Community
- ● Individuals
- ● Local Govt
- ● Other levels of Government
- ● Private

## How our community fees about their ability to engage and be informed in decisions

- I am well inormed about Council Operations
- I can engage with Council as much as a little as i like
- I get an opportunity to influence decisions that are made
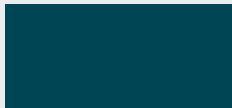- Council listens to my feedback wiren i provide it

Legend:
- ● Definately agree
- ● Somewhat agree
- ● Neither agree or disagree
- ● Somewhat disagree
- ● Definately disagree

## How would you like Council to approach financial management?

**Take a conservative approach and only spend on essential services**

**Spending within its means**

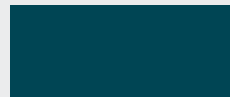**Proactively invest in new opportunities that may contain an element of risk**

## How does our Community view our rates

**Rates seem too high relative to local Councils**

**Rates seem about the same as local councils**

**Rates seem less than lccal councils**

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## Love

- The parks
- The People
- The Community
- The country feel
- Sporting opportunies for kids + teens
- I love that Singleton is progressive but hasn't lost its rural character
- I grew up in Singleton and I love the small town feel and community. It's great that it is now quicker to get to the cities.
- I love the events council is investing in to bring the community together! We now need to attract investors to bring other recreational services to town for youth and families

## Concerns

- Gym + Swim maintenance
- Parking on John Street
- Flood Plain
- Future of Singleton after the mines
- Access to further education and training
- Lack of facilities for teens and kids, Cessnock pcyc for example have an amazing skatepark and other activities on offer at their pcyc.
- Local activities for families. I don't want to have to drive to Maitland, Muswellbrook or Newcastle for things to do as a family. I want to stay local!
- Reliance on mining and impacts from the bypass.

## Ideas

- Better drainage (Kelso Street / Boonal Street / Boundary Street)
- Cycleways connecting Hermitage Road to Branxton
- More entertainment opportunities in town
- We need to invest in sporting facilities for our older children like a pump track or upgrade to the BMX track. Yes the pathways are great but we are tired of going out of town for activities. Other Councils seem to be funding lots of projects for outdoor activity spaces, I think we need to do the same.
- Cinema, bowling alley, ninja parks, indoor play centres

## What the dotmocracy responses are telling us:



Youth Services
Parks and Playgrounds
Sporting facilities
Events
Roads and parking
Children Services
Environment
Cycle, shared pathways and footpaths
Arts and cultural services
Sustainability
Library Services
Community development
Planning, building and development
Economic development and revitalisation
Waste & recycling collection services
Tourism & the visitor economy
Emergency management + diaster preparedness
Water and sewer services
Waste diversion
Customer service
Community facilities

SINGLETON
COUNCIL